Seed Travelers

Beginning Science

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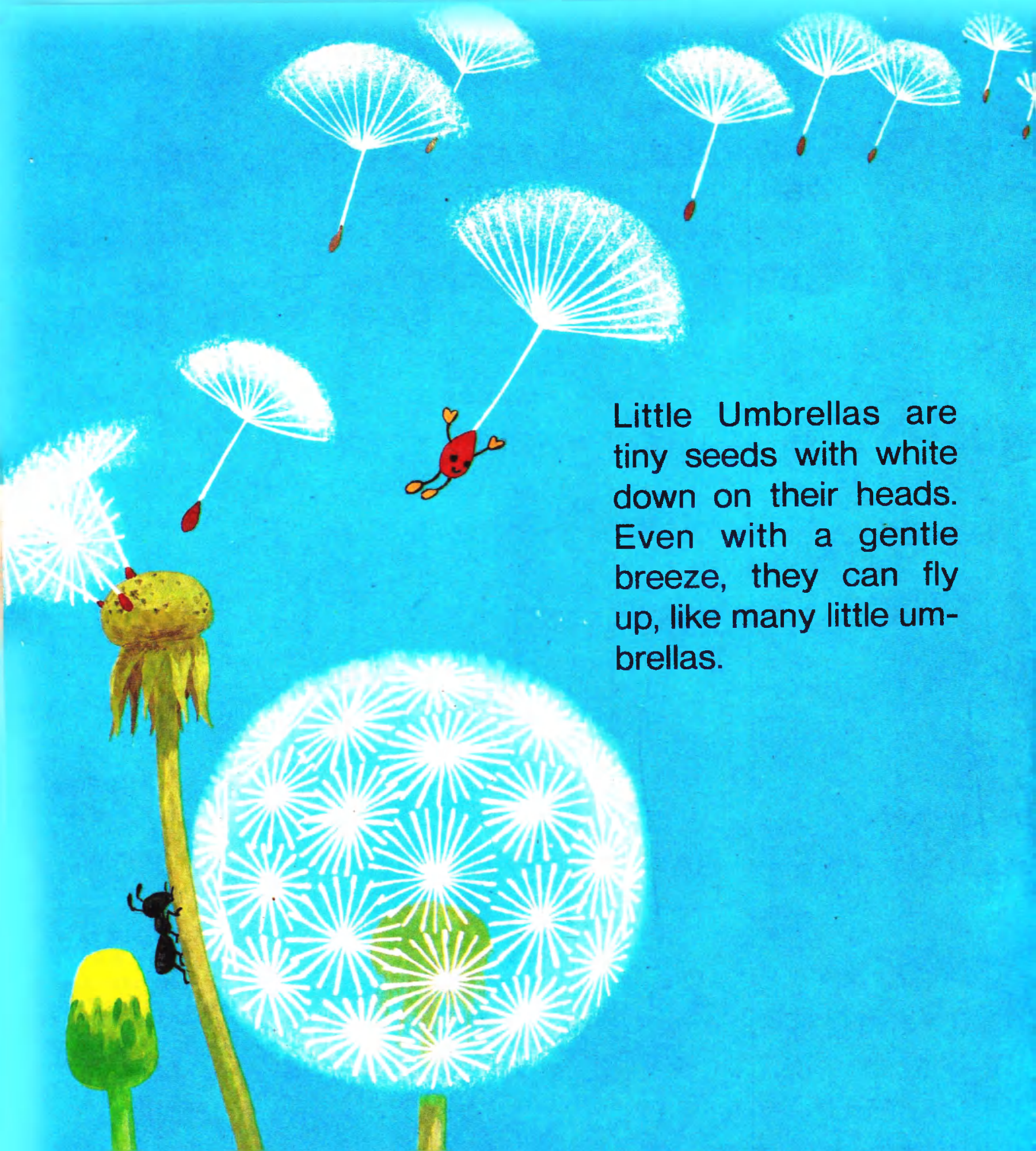
Mama Dandelion has many many children in the field in autumn. She thinks of a beautiful name for her children: "Little Umbrella."

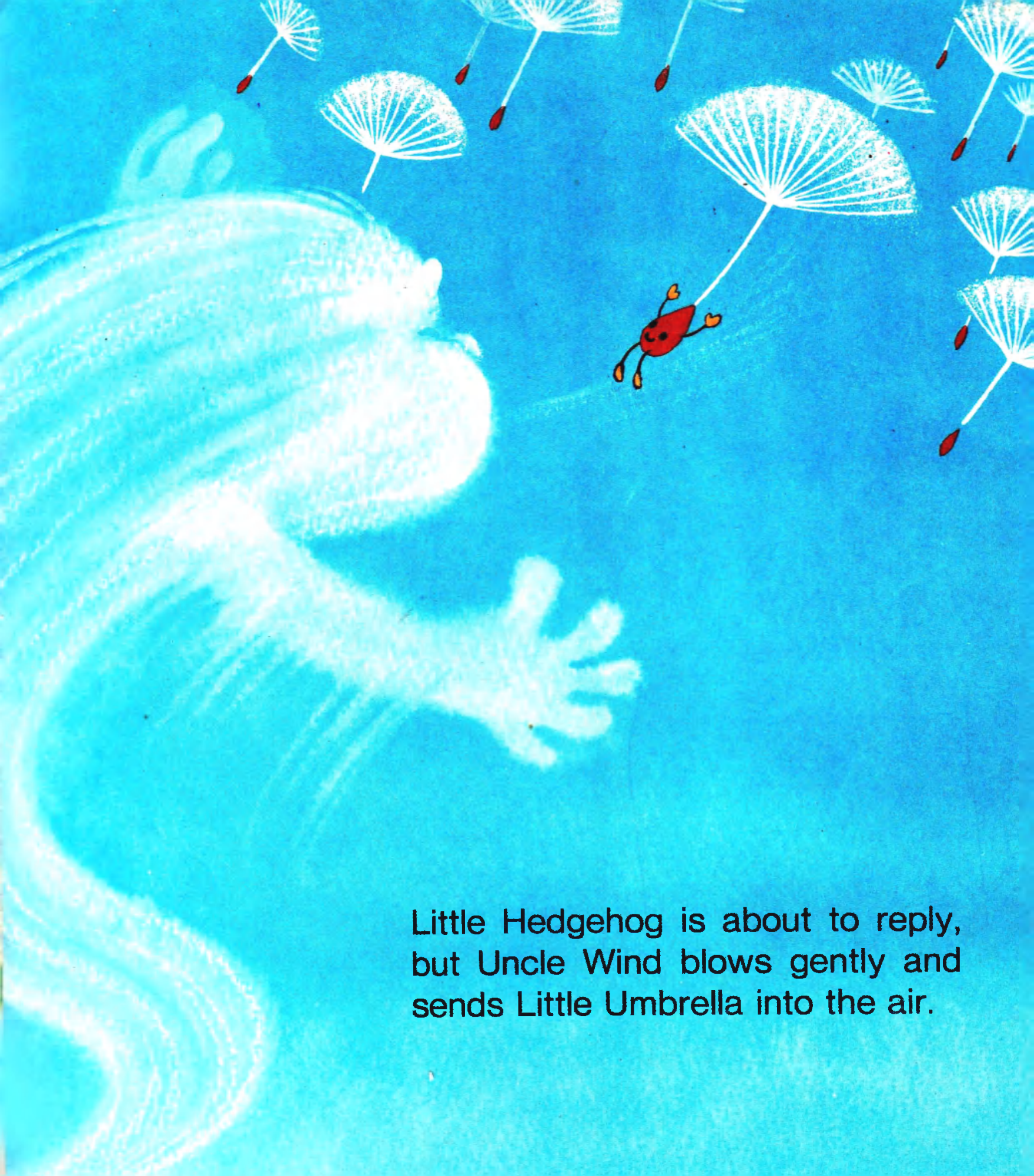


Little Umbrellas are tiny seeds with white down on their heads. Even with a gentle breeze, they can fly up, like many little umbrellas.

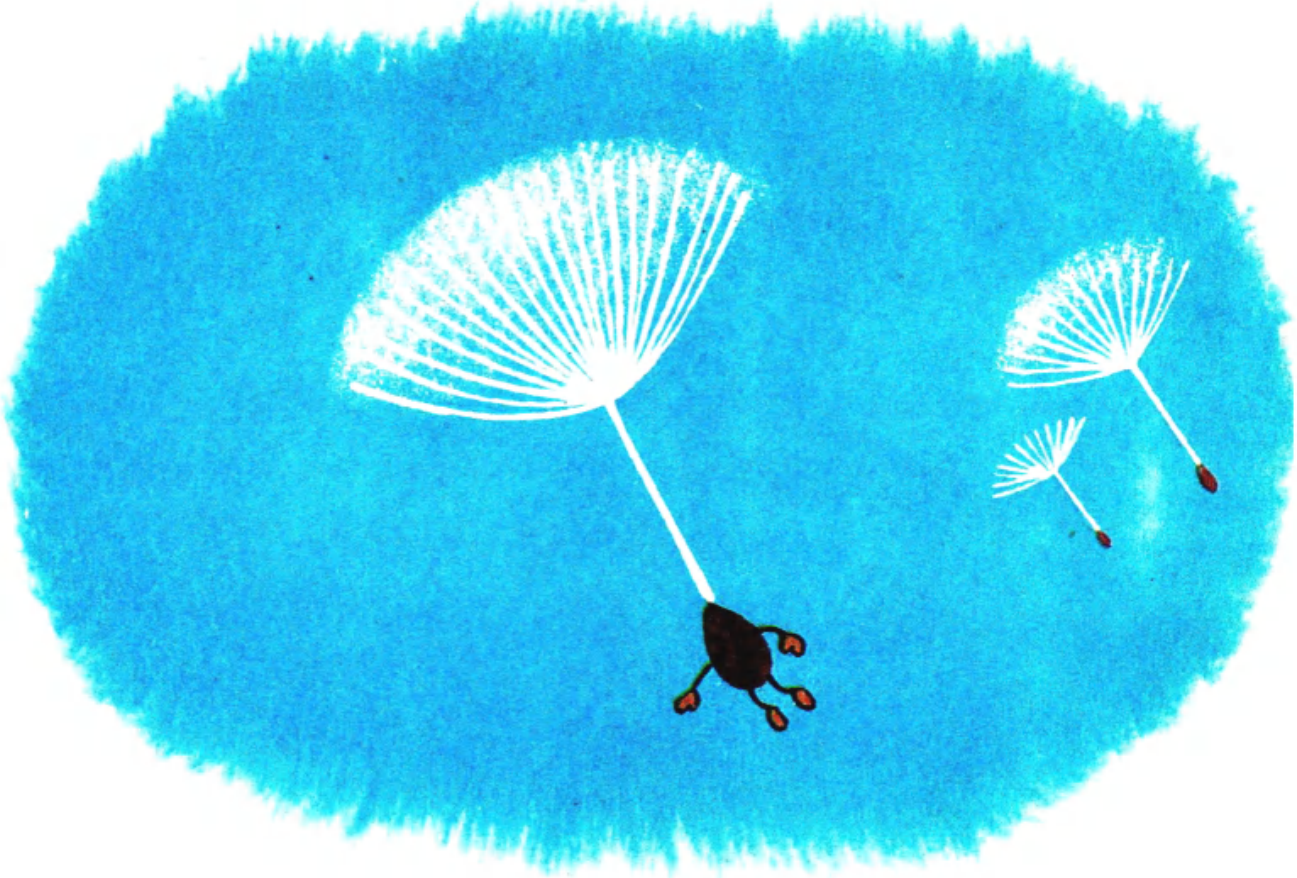
Mama Cocklebur is a good neighbor of the Dandelions. She has also given her children a name, "Little Hedgehog."

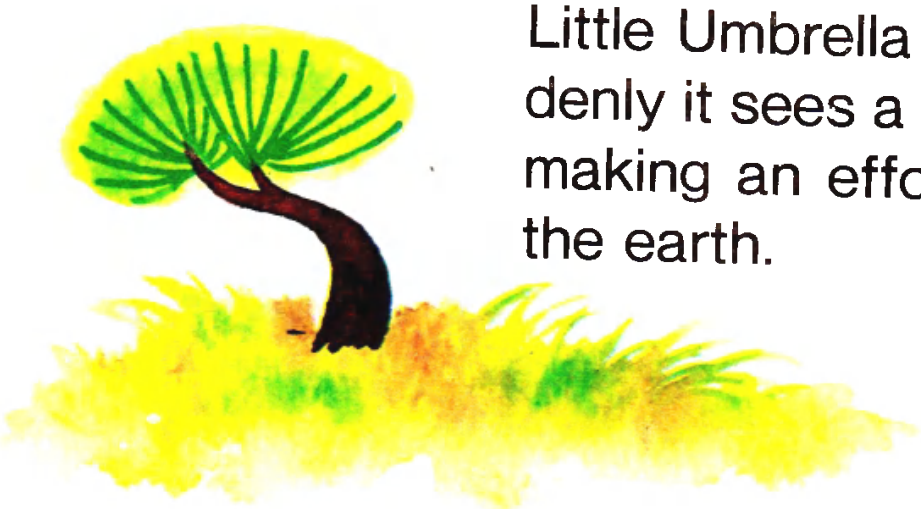
Little Hedgehogs are also tiny seeds. They look very strange with sharp thorns all over their bodies. They're just like little hedgehogs.

Mama Dandelion asks her children to settle down in the field. Little Umbrella says proudly to Little Hedgehog, "I am going to travel! Why don't you fly, Little Hedgehog?"



Little Hedgehog is about to reply, but Uncle Wind blows gently and sends Little Umbrella into the air.



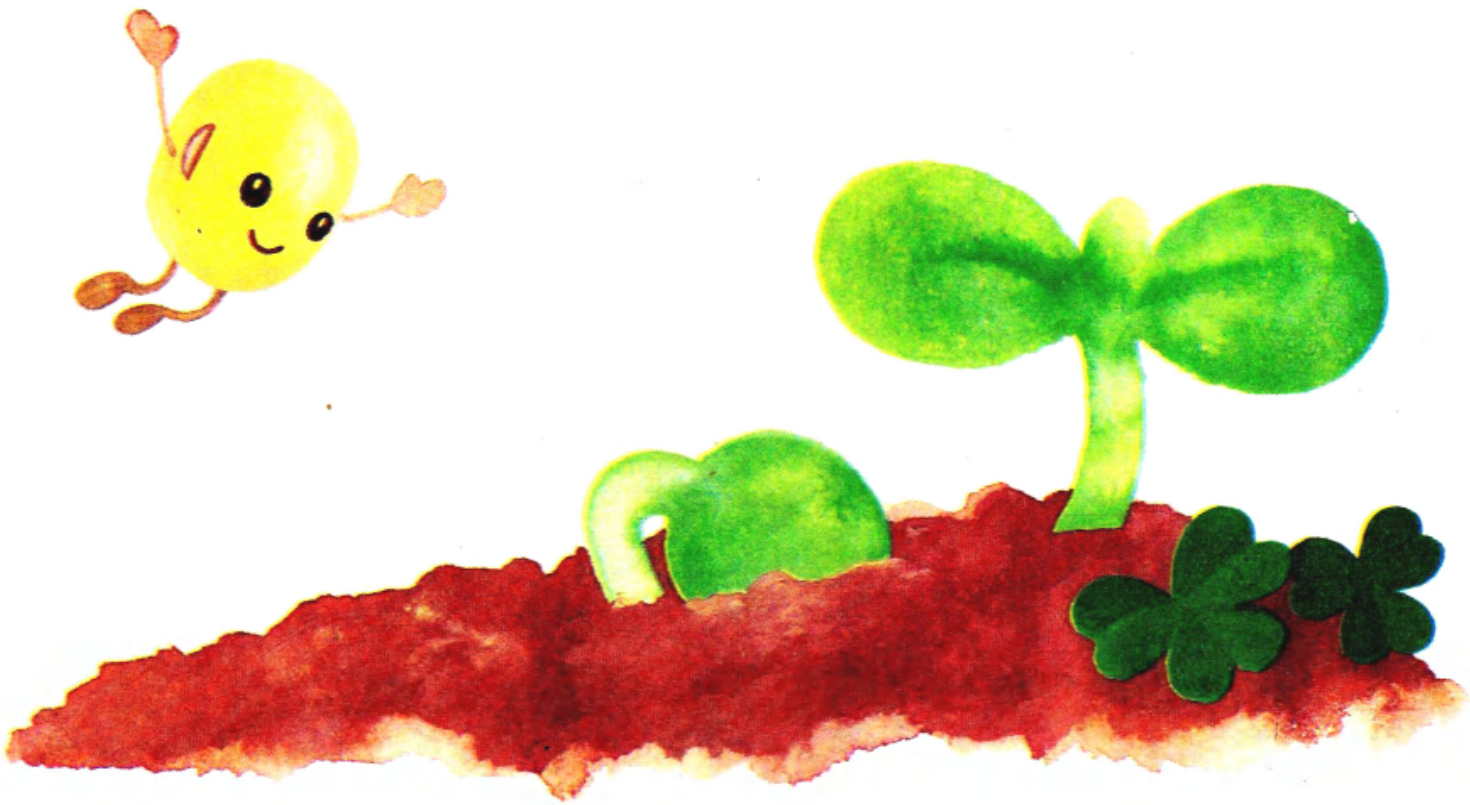


Little Umbrella flies and flies. Suddenly it sees a sprouting pine seed, making an effort to break through the earth.

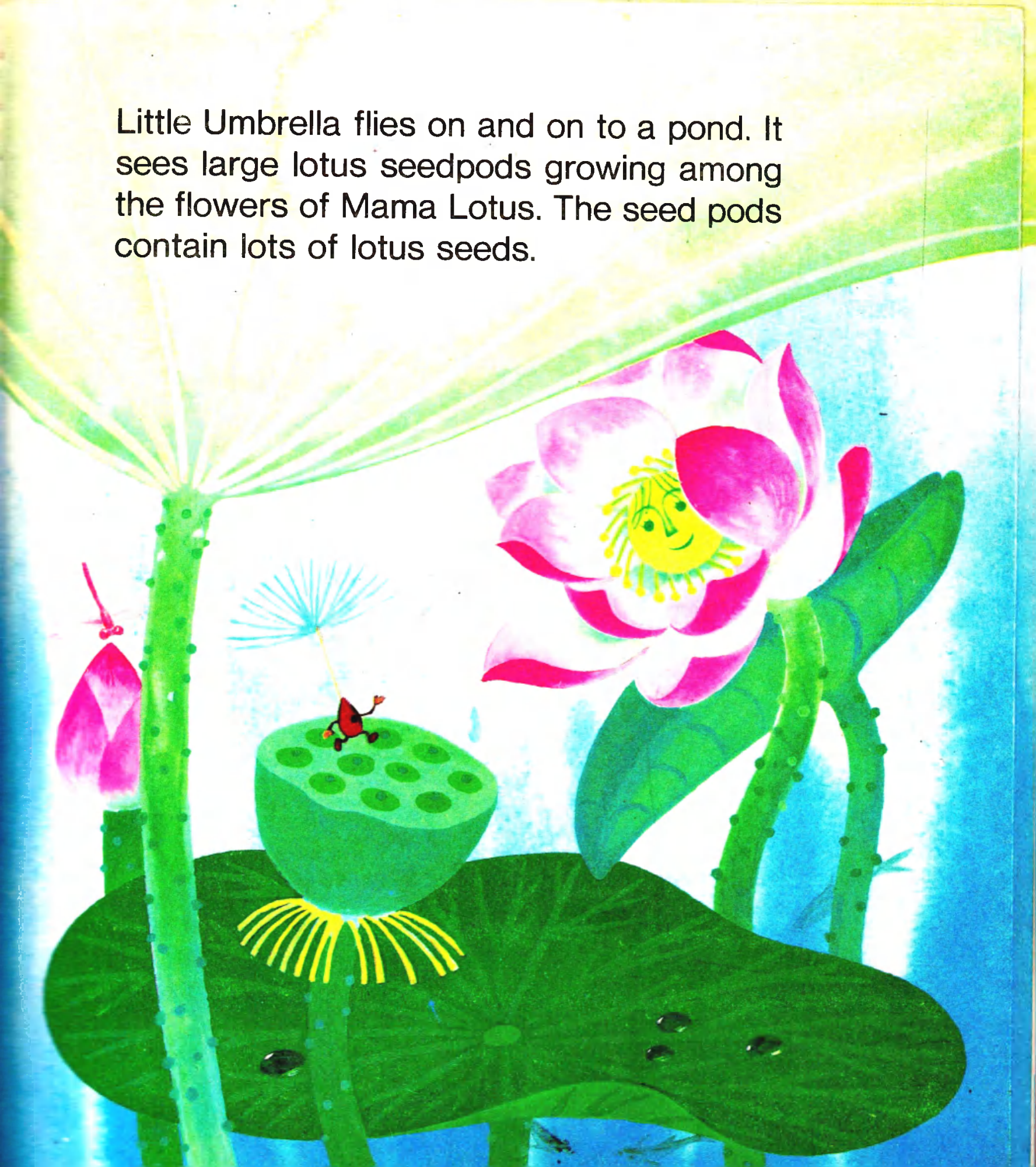
The pine seed tells Little Umbrella, "While carrying pine seeds to its cave, the little squirrel drops me here carelessly." "Oh! It's your way of traveling," Little Umbrella says in surprise.

Little Umbrella continues its traveling. Suddenly it hears a pattering sound. A fully ripe pod splits open and the Soybean's children bounce out of their shell.

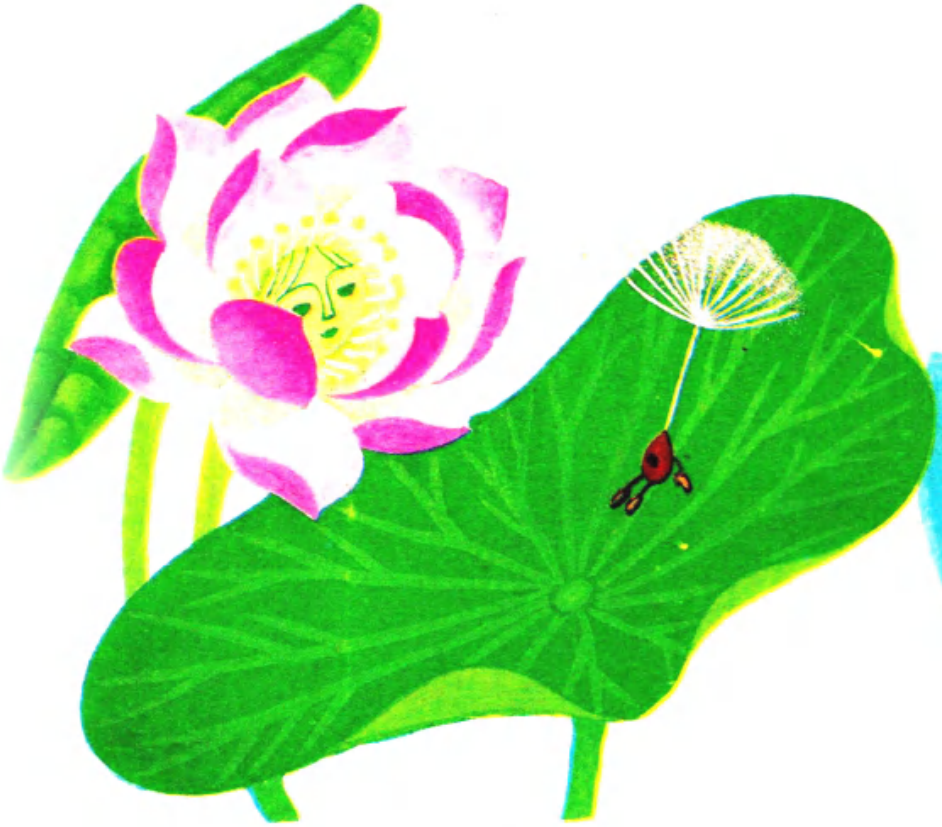
Little soybeans bounce and bounce to a far away place. They rest in the earth, have a sleep and then put forth their sprouts.

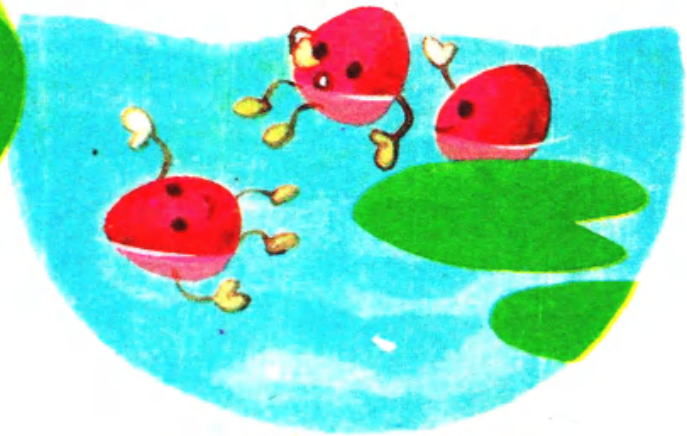


Little Umbrella flies on and on to a pond. It sees large lotus seedpods growing among the flowers of Mama Lotus. The seed pods contain lots of lotus seeds.

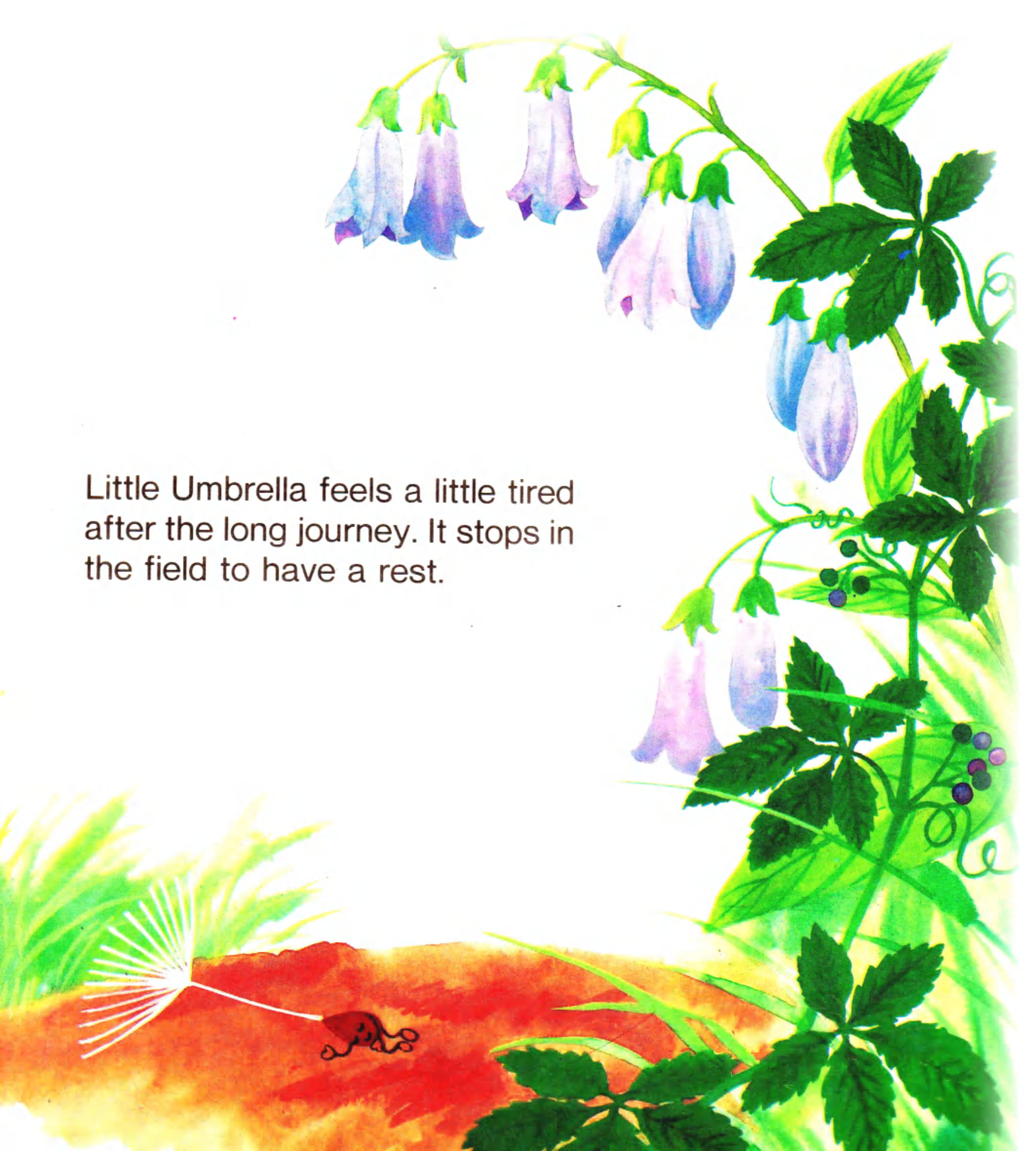


A large seedpod falls into the water. Slowly, its shell rots away. The lotus seeds float on the surface of the water. They float to a far place with the current.

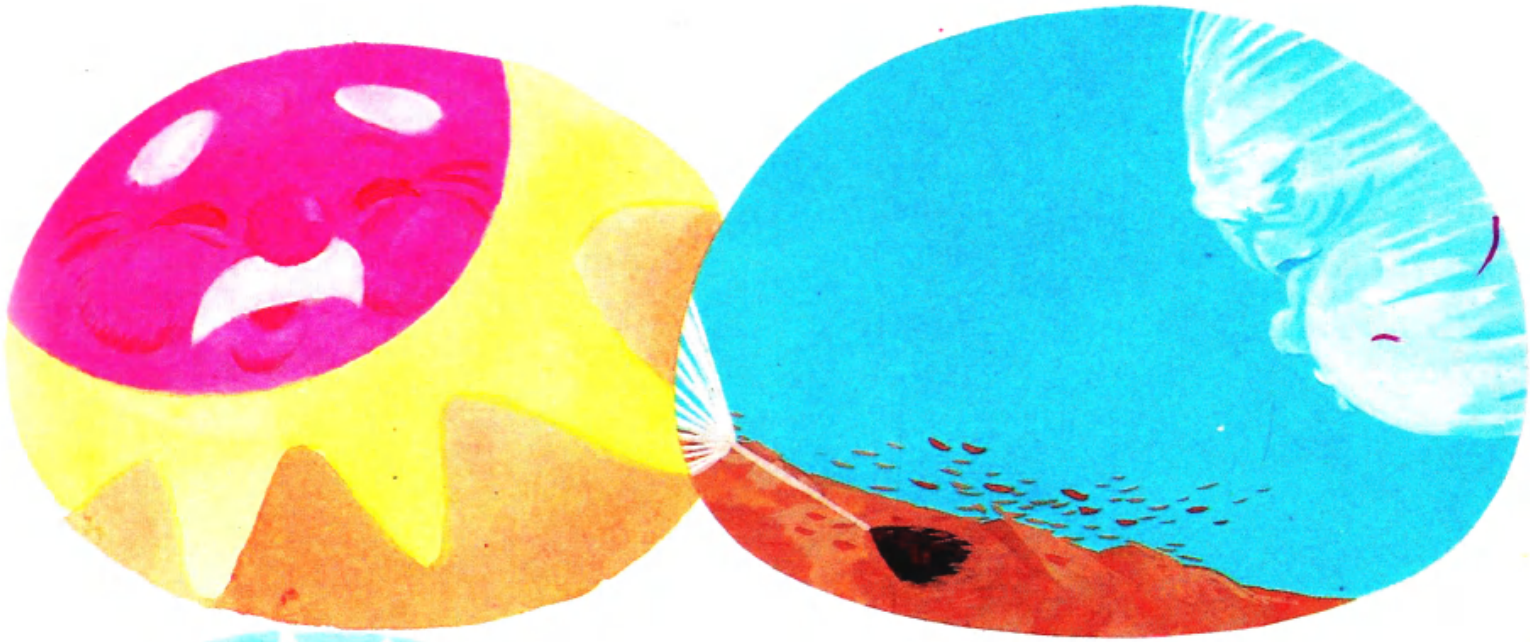


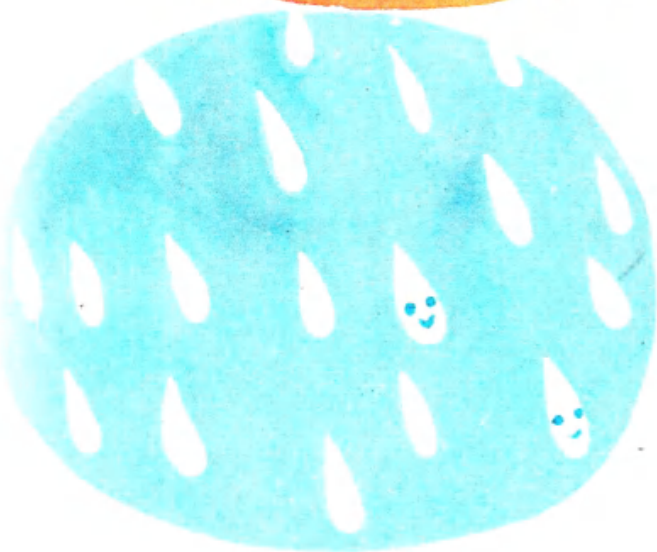


Mama Lotus tells Little Umbrella, "When the seeds get tired, they sink to the bottom of the river and sleep in the soft earth. Next spring they all sprout." "Mama Lotus is really clever!" Little Umbrella thinks.



Little Umbrella feels a little tired after the long journey. It stops in the field to have a rest.





Uncle Wind lifts the loose, soft soil and gently covers Little Umbrella with it. Little Umbrella has been exposed to sun and rain for several days. One day, it wakes up. It pops its head out of the earth and sprouts thorny leaves and grows into a little dandelion.

The little dandelion opens its eyes and looks around. Why, just beside it, there grows a little cocklebur with saw-tooth leaves. "Little cocklebur, how did you get here?" the little dandelion asks.

The little cocklebur says with a smile, "After you flew away, I got impatient. Just then a little deer ran over and picked me up with its body. So I began my trip with the deer. Who would have thought the little deer would scratch himself and drop me on the grass here..."

"Ha-ha, very funny! So you are a traveler on a deer's back!" The little dandelion laughs heartily. It's a true delight when two good friends meet again after a long time.

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